

Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of **March 3, 2005**. Reexamination and reconsideration of **claims 1-14 and 23-29** is respectfully requested.

Summary of The Office Action

The IDS filed on 11/10/2003 was objected to because it did not include a copy of European Search Report for Application no. EP 02 25 1655.

Claims 1-14 and 23-29 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,755,495.

Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 13, 23, 26, 28-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohorquez (U.S. 5,357,081) in view of Suzuki (U.S. 4,514,737).

Claims 2, 4, 5, 11-12, 24-25, 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohorquez (U.S. 5,357,081) in view of Suzuki (U.S. 4,514,737), and further in view of Doluca (US 6,208,127).

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohorquez (U.S. 5,357,081) in view of Suzuki (U.S. 4,514,737), and further in view of Otsuki (US 6,145,961).

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action stated that the IDS filed on 11/10/2003 did not include a copy of European Search Report for Application no. EP 02 25 1655. A copy of the Search Report is being submitted with this response in an IDS. The Examiner will note that all references cited by the European Search Report were individually cited in the IDS filed on 11/10/2003 and have been indicated as considered.

Terminal Disclaimer

Enclosed with this response is a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) signed by the attorney of record. U.S. Patent No. 6,755,495 and the present application are commonly owned by the present assignee. Applicant believes the double patenting rejection is now overcome.

The Present Claims Patentably Distinguish Over the References of Record

The Office Action applies the combined teachings of Bohorquez (Figure 3) and Suzuki (Figures 9-10) to show that the present independent claims are obvious. Applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Suzuki do not cure the shortcomings of Bohorquez and one of ordinary skill in the art would find no motivation to combine the teachings of Suzuki with Bohorquez.

For example, Figure 3 of Bohorquez shows a circuit for “controlling the energy applied to the heater resistor of thermal inkjet printheads” and “controls the voltage applied to the heater resistor.” (see column 4, lines 7-15). Suzuki, conversely, does not control the voltage but has the object to “stabilize the printing timing and printing pressure of a printing head” when there is a variation in the power source voltage (Summary, column 2, lines 15-20). Thus, Suzuki is directed to a printing timing and printing pressure stabilizing circuit. In fact, the Summary of the Invention states that the invention will “obviate the necessity of providing a circuit for stabilizing the power source voltage.” (Summary, column 2, lines 45-46).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the Suzuki invention has a very different purpose and function and provides no suggestion to modify a voltage controlling circuit like Figure 3 from Bohorquez. The same rationale applies to Bohorquez in that no suggestion exists to modify the voltage controlling circuit of Figure 3 in Bohorquez with the timing and pressure stabilizing circuit of Suzuki. Additionally, if the proposed modification were made, the combination would still fail to teach or suggest the present claims for the reasons set forth below.

Independent Claim 1

Looking to present claim 1, the Office Action states that the claimed power regulator is taught by the combination of Bohorquez and Suzuki. In particular, the Office Action states that Figure 3 of Bohorquez can be modified to show a power regulator that provides an offset voltage from an internal power supply path by using the Vcc line shown in Figure 9 of Suzuki that is supplied to microcomputer 30 through level shift circuit 29. However, the microcomputer 30 uses the Vcc line to detect the power voltage source and output a drive pulse signal p that affects a timing delay for printing, not to provide an offset voltage (see Suzuki, column 6, lines 50-66, and Figure 12). Furthermore, Bohorquez provides no teaching or suggestion of using a Vcc line to provide an offset voltage. Thus, combining Bohorquez with Suzuki does not create an appropriate circuit that teaches claim 1. Therefore, there is no teaching or suggestion of the claimed power regulator or the combination of claimed elements as recited in present claim 1.

Since claim 1 recites features not taught or suggested by the references, individually or in combination, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the references. Accordingly, dependent claims 2-12 also patentably distinguish over the references and are in condition for allowance.

Independent claims 13, 23, and 28

Independent claims 13, 23 and 28 were rejected for the same reasons as set forth for claim 1. Based on the above explanations of the references, Applicant respectfully submits that these independent claims are not taught or suggested by the references and requests that the Examiner reexamined each claim in view of its claim language. Accordingly, claims 13, 23, and 28, and their dependent claims, are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 11-12, 24-25, 27, and 14

Dependent Claims 2, 4, 5, 11-12, 24-25, 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohorquez (U.S. 5,357,081) in view of Suzuki (U.S. 4,514,737), and further in view of Doluca (US 6,208,127). As explained previously, one of ordinary skill would understand that the references provide no suggestion to combine Bohorquez and Suzuki in the proposed manner to thereby teach the present independent claims. Furthermore, if such a combination were made, the recited features of the independent claims would not be taught or suggested. Thus, dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 11-12, 24-25, 27 and also not taught or suggested and patentably distinguish over the references of record.

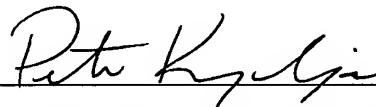
For similar reasons, dependent claim 14 is not taught or suggested and patentably distinguishes over the references of record.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, **claims 1-14 and 23-29** patentably and unobviously distinguish over the references of record and are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

3 - JUNE - 2005



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